

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-01 EB-04 INR-05
EUR-08 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 SSO-00
INRE-00 IOE-00 /054 W
-----030526 011443Z /50/45

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9873

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY

USUN NEWYORK PRIORITY 5567

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR EO, TAGS, AND SUBJECT LINES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJ: ILO: US CONSULTATIONS WITH IMEC - JULY 27

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES AND PALMER

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S/IL FOR DALE GOOD

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, HOROWITZ AND ILAB

REF: (A) STATE 171938 (NOTAL); (B) GENEVA 6438

SUMMARY: SPOKESMAN FOR THE NINE BEGAN SESSION BY TELLING THEIR

IMEC COLLEAGUES THAT, WHATEVER COURSE THE U.S. CHOSE THAT THE NINE WOULD REMAIN IN ILO, THAT THEY WOULD UNDERTAKE A CONCERTED DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES THEY SHARE WITH US AND WHICH WERE TEMPORARILY DEFEATED AT THE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE, THAT THEIR COMMITMENT TO BOTH ILO AND ILO REFORM WAS A CONTINUING ONE THAT WOULD BE SUPPORTED AT MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL LEVELS. THEY ALSO REPEATED JUDGMENT THAT POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS OF THIS MAJOR EFFORT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED IF U.S. WITHDREW. IMEC NATIONS JOINED THE NINE IN COMMITMENTS TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR DIPLOMATIC EFFORT, MENTIONING SUSTAINED MINISTERIAL-LEVEL INTEREST, NECESSARY DEMARCHES, INVOLVEMENT OF UNGA, BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND CANADA MADE SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS TO ASSURE SOLIDARITY OF EFFORT. ALL FEEL THAT FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO ILO REORGANIZATION IS ESSENTIAL TO WIN G-77 AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE AND IMEC LEADERSHIP WAS URGED TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT DELAY TO DEFINE POSSIBILITIES OF STRUCTURAL REORGANIZATION. CANADA, AS CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP: "IMEC WILL CONTINUE TO WORK POSITIVELY, ACTIVELY, AND IMAGINATIVELY WHETHER OR NOT U.S. STAYS IN. NO OTHER COUNTRY WILL ABANDON ILO. OUR FIGHT WILL BE TOUGHER, PERHAPS HOPELESS BUT NONE OF US BELIEVE IT IS IN U.S., U.N., WESTERN, OR ILO INTERESTS FOR U.S. TO WITHDRAW, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ARE OUR OBJECTIVES. WE ARE READY TO USE THE IMEC MACHINERY TO DEFINE THE PRECISE WAYS TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES." END SUMMARY

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1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH NINE COMMITMENT TO STAY AND WORK FOR REFORM. HE REJECTED THE IDEA THAT U.S. WITHDRAWAL COULD POSSIBLY HELP REFORM EFFORT. INSTEAD, WITHDRAWAL WOULD UNDERMINE IMEC EFFORT AND POSSIBLY DESTROY ILO BECAUSE U.S. TECHNICAL INPUT WOULD BE LOST, FORCES OF RADICALISM AND POLITICIZATION WOULD BE ENCOURAGED, FORCED REORGANIZATION BY 25 PERCENT BUDGET CUT WOULD BE ANTI-WESTERN AND USED BY SOVIETS FOR ITS OBJECTIVES, AND U.S. WITHDRAWAL WOULD LEND ITSELF TO MISINTERPRETATION CONCERNING U.S. PURPOSES. EFFORTS MUST BE PURSUED IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ATTEMPTING TO AMEND ARTICLE 17, MORE FLEXIBILITY AND LESS DOGMATIC COMMITMENT TO TIME FRAMES MAY BE NECESSARY. IT IS VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE THAT G-77 COUNTRIES WILL ACHIEVE A GREATER ROLE. OUR JOB IS TO SEE TO IT THAT THIS ROLE IS NOT ACHIEVED AT COST TO TRIPARTITISM AND BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES.

2. JAPAN COMPLETELY AGREED WITH BELGIAN, BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN STATEMENTS. GOJ SHARES U.S. DISSATISFACTION WITH ILO BUT THINKS IMPORTANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. REFORMS TAKE TIME AND TWO YEARS WAS NOT ENOUGH. GOJ URGED U.S. TO HEED IMEC SOLIDARITY AND COMMITMENT AND EXPRESSED FEAR OF ADVERSE IMPACT ON "SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY U.S. WITHDRAWAL,

STRENGTHENING AS IT MIGHT ISOLATIONIST AND ANTI-U.N. ELEMENTS.

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9874

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY

USUN NEWYORK PRIORITY 5568

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

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3. AUSTRIA ADDED SUPPORT TO JAPANESE CONCERN THAT U.S. WITHDRAWAL
WOULD BE START OF REVERSE PROCESS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
THREATENING U.N. COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSALITY. AMBASSADOR ADDED:
ALL OF US HAVE SKEPTICS IN OUR COUNTRIES REGARDING THE U.N.
SYSTEM. U.S. WITHDRAWAL WOULD STRENGTHEN THESE NEGATIVE FORCES.
U.S. WOULD BE LEAVING NOT ONLY ILO BUT ALSO IMEC, DESERTING THE
COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD DO THE WORK. COMMENTING ON POSSIBLE U.S.
RETURN TO ILO AT LATER DATE, GOA QUOTED CHANCELLOR KREISKY: IT IS
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EASY TO LEAVE THE TABLE BUT HARD TO COME BACK.

4. NEW ZEALAND AGREED WITH PRIOR STATEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS AND OFFERED TO USE ITS LINKS TO SOME IMPORTANT G-77 COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES.

5. SWEDEN AGREED "WITH EVERYTHING SAID HERE," AND ADDED EMPHASIS TO AUSTRIAN COMMENTS ABOUT U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND RETURN. GOS FEELS U.S. WITHDRAWAL WILL ENCOURAGE RADICAL POLITICALIZATION.

6. NORWAY REGARDS MORAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ILO WORK AS "MOST VALUABLE". GON ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH COLLEAGUES' STATEMENTS. FINLAND REPEATED THE POINTS OF ITS DEMARCHE REPORTED IN HELSINKI 1579.

7. SPAIN URGED THAT ILO DECISION BE SEEN IN GLOBAL CONTEXT, REMEMBERING THAT WHAT LOOKS DISCOURAGING TODAY MAY BE VICTORY TOMORROW. "WE DO NOT BEG THE U.S. TO STAY IN ILO BUT WE ASK THAT YOU STAY BECAUSE THAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO." THE REAL CREDIBILITY ISSUE HERE IS WHETHER THE U.S. HAS NOT ONLY A COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES BUT A CONTINUING DETERMINATION TO FIGHT FOR THEM.

8. FRENCH AMBASSADOR URGED IMEC, INCLUDING U.S., TO USE RECONVENED 31ST UNGA TO SEEK MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF REORGANIZATION POSSIBILITIES, AND ASSURED GOF'S ACTIVE ROLE IN THAT EFFORT.

9. IN THE CLOSING U.S. STATEMENT, ASST SECY MAYNES SAID A KEY QUESTION IN THE U.S. DECISION WAS OUR CREDIBILITY, AND WE WOULD EXAMINE THIS VERY CAREFULLY. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE IMPACT OF OUR DECISION ON THE U.N. SYSTEM. THE BROADER PROBLEM IS TO FIND WAYS TO PROTECT THE CENTRAL CONCERNS IN THE U.N. SYSTEM FOR POLITICALIZATION; IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED, SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL WANE. EVEN IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE U.S. WITHDRAWS FROM ILO, WE WANT TO REMAIN INVOLVED WITH IMEC IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS. THE U.S. IS AWARE OF G-77 CONCERNS -- THIS IS A CENTRAL POINT IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY -- BUT, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE THIRD WORLD RECOGNIZES AND RESPOND TO OUR CONCERNS. HOROWITZ POINTED OUT THAT THE KISSINGER LETTER WAS NOT A REFORM EFFORT OR AN ATTEMPT TO HALT ATTRITION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S BASIC PRINCIPLES. THEREFORE, "FLEXIBILITY" MUST BE USED CAREFULLY BECAUSE EXCESSIVE FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE WEST HAD LED THE U.S. TO GIVE ITS NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL. THE U.S. DECISION IS DIFFICULT AND WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES; THE DECISION WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. HOROWITZ EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATION FOR THE PATTERN OF COOPERATION IN IMEC IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. ALTHOUGH

IT DID NOT BEAR FRUIT AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, IT
HAS GIVEN A COHESIVENESS AND A SENSE OF DIRECTION WHICH THE WEST
DID NOT HAVE BEFORE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TAGS: ELAB, PORG, US, ILO
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